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**Amendments to the Claims**

The following claims will replace all prior versions of the claims in this application (in the unlikely event that no claims follow herein, the previously pending claims will remain):

1. (Previously presented) A process for fashioning a permanent connection between at least 2 components, at least one of said components being a thermoplastic sealing or connecting member obtained by molding a thermoplastic elastomeric material, at least one other component being a non-sealing member, said permanent connection being located at a desired location of said non-sealing member, comprising:
  - a. stretching said sealing or connecting member;
  - b. relaxing said stretched member from step (a) at ambient temperature;
  - c. placing said member from step (b) at the desired location on said non-sealing member; and
  - d. exposing said members from step (c) to an increased temperature of at most about 20 °C below the melting temperature of the thermoplastic elastomeric material.
2. (Currently amended) A process according to claim 1, wherein the thermoplastic ~~elastomer~~ elastomeric material is a copolyether ester.
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Currently amended) A process for fashioning a permanent connection between at least 2 components with at least one thermoplastic sealing or connecting component obtained by molding the component from a thermoplastic elastomeric material, stretching the component, and relaxing the component at ambient temperature according to claim 3, and at least one non-sealing member, comprising:

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a. placing said thermoplastic sealing or connecting component at the location of the desired connection on said non-sealing member; and

b. exposing said thermoplastic sealing or connecting component to an increased temperature of at most about 20 °C below the melting point of the thermoplastic elastomeric material.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently amended) A process for fashioning a permanent connection between at least 2 components, with at least one thermoplastic sealing or connecting component according to claim 4, and ~~at least one non-sealing member, comprising:~~

a. ~~placing said thermoplastic sealing or connecting component at the location of the desired connection on said non-sealing member;~~

b. ~~exposing said thermoplastic sealing or connecting component to an increased temperature of at most about 20 °C below the melting point of the thermoplastic elastomeric material wherein the thermoplastic elastomeric material is a copolyetherester.~~

9. (Cancelled).

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Previously presented) A process according to claim 1, wherein the thermoplastic elastomeric material comprises a block copolymer comprising hard blocks, wherein said hard blocks comprise polyurethane, polyester or polyamide.

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14. (Cancelled)

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Cancelled)

20. (New) A process according to claim 5, wherein the thermoplastic elastomeric material comprises a block copolymer comprising hard blocks, wherein said hard blocks comprise polyurethane, polyester or polyamide.

21. (New) A process according to claim 1, wherein the thermoplastic sealing or connecting member is a body plug, gasket ring, sealing ring, or shrink-on sleeving.

22. (New) A process according to claim 5, wherein the thermoplastic sealing or connecting member is a body plug, gasket ring, sealing ring, or shrink-on sleeving.